

Tangail BNP bigwigs fall apart over reform

Ex-MP and district president Mahmudul Hassan leads reformists while Delwar supporters rally round secretary Bulbul

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Front ranking BNP leaders in Tangail are virtually divided over reforms in the party and their allegiance to newly appointed secretary general Khandaker Delwar Hossain or expelled secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhyuan.

The pro-reform faction is led by district president of the party and former lawmaker Maj Gen (Retd) Mahmudul Hassan while its general secretary Moniruzzaman Bulbul leads leaders loyal to Delwar, party sources said.

Mahmudul Hassan has already make his stance clear in favour of reforms and has been maintaining contact with expelled party secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuyian, they said.

Moniruzzaman Khan Bulbul has expressed his confidence on the leadership of Khaleda Zia and the newly appointed secretary general Khandakar Delwar Hossain.

Three former ministers from Tangail--Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad, Goutam Chakroborty and Abdus Salam Pintu are yet to make their position known. They are still observing the situation, the sources claimed.

Another former minister and influential party leader Shajahan



Mahmudul Hassan

Siraj is absconding since conviction by a court for tax evasion.

This correspondent could not contact any of the former ministers despite repeated attempts over cellphone.

Bulbul and his followers made their position clear by joining a relief distribution programme by BNP chairperson's adviser Brig Gen (Retd) ASM Hannan Shah in Bhuapur recently.

Talking to this correspondent, Tangail district BNP vice-president and Bhuapur upazila unit president Abdul Khalek Mandol said Khaleda Zia represents the mainstream BNP and upholds its ideology enunciated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

Asked about Mahmudul Hassan, he said, "Nobody is with him.

District BNP organising



Moniruzzaman Bulbul

secretary and president of Tangail poura BNP Saidul Haque Sadu claimed that majority of leaders and activists are with Delwar.

Sources close to Mahmudul Hassan however claimed that a good number of front ranking leaders of the district committee are maintaining contacts with the former lawmaker (Hassan).

Advocate Mohammad Ali Miah, senior vice-president of Tangail district BNP, said there is no alternative to Mahmudul Hassan in Tangail as he has done a lot of development works in the district.

Mohammad Abdur Razzak, secretary of Tangail Sadar BNP and office secretary of the district committee, said he along with "all upazila level leaders" of Mahmudul Hassan's constituency (Tangail-5 Sadar-Delduar) are

united under his leadership.

Nurul Islam, president of Delduar upazila BNP, known as loyal to Mahmudul Hassan, claimed that many top leaders in different upazila units are keeping regular contact with Mahmudul Hassan.

"But most of them kept mum and are not making any comment openly as the time is not ripe," he added.

When contacted, Bulbul said he along with most of the leaders and activists of Tangail BNP including district and upazila units are united under the leadership of party chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"Only those who joined BNP form Jatiya Party (Ershad) with Mahmudul Hassan may be with him (Hassan)," Bulbul added.

Talking to this correspondent, Mahmudul Hassan said personally he is not deny the leadership of Khaleda Zia.

But the party needs reforms, he asserted. The party would not have faced the present situation had there been reforms earlier, he said.

"All leaders and activists in Tangail who actually love the party are with me as I made the party stronger and disciplined after joining it," the former lawmaker said.

I am not afraid, says Khulna mayor Tayebur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna City Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman has said he would submit his wealth statement within the stipulated time after receiving the notice from Anti Corruption Commission (ACC).

"I am not at all afraid of sale of my name in the print media as one of the eighty high-profile corrupt suspects. Because, I live an honest life with my honest income", the Mayor said.

Praising present government's move against corruption, he said he would accept ACC notice with thanks. "Because, I have nothing to conceal", he said.

Sheikh Tayebur Rahman said he had a sound sleep Thursday night hearing the news that he was on the list of 80 corrupt suspects.

"The government's suspicion will go when my wealth statement will be proved transparent in an impartial investigation", he said.

The ongoing drive against corruption by the government will certainly make the country prosperous and hold its image high in the world, city mayor said.

"Those who looted wealth of the country must be brought to book and given exemplary punishment. The country can not hope anything good from a woman who used to waste much time of a day for her hair", the mayor said.

10 fishermen missing in Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Ten fishermen on board two trawlers still remained missing after eight days of depression in the Bay of Bengal.

The missing fishermen are Amir Ali, Dulal, Mohsin, Rasel, Kabir Hossain, Abdul Haq, Nur Alam, Rahim, Al Amin, and Imam, all of Mohipur vilage in Kalapara upazila.

The trawlers sailed from Kuakata and believed to have been capsized in rough sea under influence of depression during September 21-23.

Mohipur Trawler Owners' Association president Abdus Salam Howlader said they sent two trawlers in the sea to conduct a search for the missing trawlers and crew on Wednesday. But the team is yet to return, they said.

Forty-five out of 55 fishermen returned from Pakhimara shoal in Khulna district where they took shelter on Saturday.

Hundreds of relatives of the missing fishermen are waiting anxiously for their near ones in Kuakata sea beach.

When contacted, Kalapara Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ranajit Kumar said the aforesaid fishermen might have taken shelter in the Indian region. 'A list of the missing fishermen has already been sent to the higher authorities,' he said adding, 'we are trying to collect information about their whereabouts.'

SBMCH official sued for bribery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An employee of Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) has sued the administrative officer, ward master and 'sarder' of the hospital for allegedly taking bribe from him promising promotion in service.

SBMCH employee Abdul Majid lodged the case with Barisal Sadar upazila magistrate court against Muzahar Ali Howlader, administrative officer, Abul Kalam, ward master and Dewan Kabir, 'sarder' of the hospital.

In the complaint, he said each of them took Tk 5,000 as bribe from 11 sweepers promising promotion and regularisation of their services.

As the matter was leaked, the Directorate of Health investigated this and held up their promotion.

Magistrate ATM Mahbubul Karim issued summons to the accused to appear before court on Thursday.

Rehabilitate Bangalees, Samo Adhikar demands

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Parbatya Chattagram Samo Adhikar Andolon (PCSAA) yesterday demanded immediate rehabilitation of Bangalees who lived at 84 cluster villages in eight upazilas under Khagrachhari hill district.

In a press release signed by PCSAA Khagrachhari district convener Dousta Muhammad Chowdhury, they also demanded security of the Bangalee people and all sorts of government facilities for them.

The PCSAA condemned the Babuchhara incident and false propaganda against Bangladesh Army and its chief by some ethnic groups.

A section of ethnic groups are grabbing the lands inhabited by the Bangalees at Sonamiatilla under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari district although the Bangalee settlers have all legal documents, it said.

The section, making false propaganda against the army and their activities, gave wrong information about Army Chief Moeen U Ahmad's surprise visit to Dighinala on August 28, it added.

The PCSAA demanded stopping of the activities that might act against the communal harmony between the Bangalee and ethnic people.

Free flow of information vital for good governance

International Day for Right to Information observed in districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The International Day for Right to Information was observed in Satkhira and Barisal yesterday with a demand to ensure free flow of information for good governance.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Local unit of Sachetan Nagarik Committee of the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) chalked out an elaborate programme to mark the day.

A colourful procession was brought out from Satkhira Collectorate ground. Processionists paraded the main streets of the district town. They carried placards with them and chanted slogans in support of their demand.

A discussion on 'Right to Information: Promise of Good Governance' was held at Satkhira Lawyers' Association auditorium with Satkhira Sachetan Nagarik Committee convenor Advocate AKM Shahidullah in the chair.

Discussants said that right to information is a fundamental right of people. They said free flow of information may be a weapon to curb corruption. They hoped the government would take necessary measure to enact law in this regard.

They observed that no reform initiative would be successful if the government fails to enact law to ensure right to information.



PHOTO: STAR

A procession was brought out in Mymensingh town yesterday to mark the International Day for Right to Information.

They stressed on a campaign to make people aware about their rights. They said it is a must for empowerment of

people and good governance. They urged people to build up a movement to establish their right.

Among others, district information

officer (DIO) Nurul Huda, Satkhira Lawyers' Association president Advocate Abul Hossain, Henri Sardar, Advocate Abul Kalam Azad and SM Jahanur Rahman of TIB addressed.

Our Barisal Correspondent said: Barisal Sachetan Nagarik Committee formed a human chain in front of Aswani Kumar Hall here in the morning. Later, a discussion was held at the Nagarik Committee office in the afternoon.

The executive committee member of Barisal Sachetan Nagarik Committee, Prof Moazzem Hossain presided the discussion.

Terming right of information as human right, speakers called for abolishing all black laws opposing the right.

They said corruption, irregularities, misuse of power, nepotism and other kinds of vices would be eliminated once for all if the right to information is established.

15,000 marooned as Kobadak dam gives in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Twelve villages in Pratapnagar union under Assassuni upazila were flooded following collapse of embankment at Kurikaunia point on the Kabodak river yesterday afternoon.

Over 15,000 people in the areas have been marooned while standing Amon crops on 1400 acres of land and some 2,500 shrimp enclosures in the area have been washed away, sources said.

Heavy pressure of river water due to high tide at about 1:00pm also washed away the sluice gate, in addition to breaching some 82 feet of the embankment.

The worst affected villages are Kurikaunia, Pratapnagar, Nakna, Goalpara, Khajra, Sanatankati, Baintala, Gar Padmapukur, Kalyanpur, Shirshira, Goalkati and Rayerbeel in Pratapnagar union.

Seeing cracks on the embankment on Thursday, locals started mending it but all their attempts failed as the embankment finally collapsed due to violent tide in the river and inundated the areas.

Satkhira Water Development Board Executive Engineer GM Mujibar Rahman said they are trying to reconstruct the collapsed embankment on an emergency basis.

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